

Application 10/646,008
Response dated: December 8, 2005
In Reply to Office Action dated: November 8, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 16, 17 and 23-25 are withdrawn from consideration and Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are subject to restriction in the present Office Action. The status of Claim 6 has been changed to "Previously Presented" in the listing of the Claims provided hereinabove. Claim 6 is "pending" and no longer "withdrawn" as indicated in the Office Action.

The Examiner identifies the following species which are allegedly contained within the application:

Species of the First Embodiment, drawn to a liquid crystal device comprising the *data driving IC mounted on the liquid crystal display panel*; and

Species of the Second Embodiment, drawn to a liquid crystal device comprising the *data driving IC mounted on flexible printed circuit films FPC*.

The Examiner further states that Claims 1-5 and 7-15 are generic claims.

In reply to the Action, Applicant herein provisionally Species of the First Embodiment, with traverse. At least the following claims are readable on the provisionally elected species: Claims 1-15 and 18-22. Applicant's traversal arguments are now set forth.

Concerning independent species, the MPEP states, "[w]here there is no disclosure of relationship between species, they are independent inventions and election of one invention following a requirement for restriction is mandatory..." MPEP §808.01(a).

Figures 3 and 6 illustrate exemplary embodiments of the invention. Referring to Figure 3, a data driving IC 540 is mounted on each data FPC film 510 (Page 9, line 25) and four gate driving IC's 440 are mounted on the liquid crystal display panel 300 (Page 10, line 19). Gate driving signal lines 321, 322 and 324 are connecting to the gate driving IC's 440 (Page 10, lines 22-26) and gate signal lines are alternately connected to a series of gate lines with test pads provided at ends of the gate driving signal lines 321 and 322 (Page 11, lines 8-14).

Where the data driving IC 540 is instead mounted on the liquid crystal display panel assembly 300, driving signal lines are connected to data lines with test pads

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provided at ends of the data driving signal lines (Page 11, line 26 to Page 12, line 10). Instead of the gate driving signal lines and the gate lines being interconnected, the data driving signal lines and data lines are merely interconnected. (*Id.*) Both embodiments are clearly related in that variations of signal lines are interconnected in a liquid crystal display apparatus. That is, drivers (gate or data) mounted on flexible printed circuit film or on the display panel assembly are embodiments of the invention, not directed towards different species of the invention.

Distinctness is defined in MPEP 802.01 to mean that "two or more subjects as disclosed are related,...but are capable of separate manufacture, use or sale as claimed, AND ARE PATENTABLE (novel and unobvious) OVER EACH OTHER." Each of the alleged includes interconnected signal lines. Clearly the alleged species are variants of one inventive concept and are thus not distinct.

In the alternative, Applicant submits that even if the application is held to include independent or distinct species, the search and examination of the present application can be made without a serious burden. That is, the two alleged species identified by the Examiner all concern an LCD apparatus with data and gate driving and signal lines and thus may be searched together and most likely within the same classes and subclasses. Thus, the examiner must examine the application in its current form on the merits. See, e.g., MPEP §803.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement of Claims 1-15 and 18-22 is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorneys at the below-listed telephone number concerning this Response or otherwise regarding the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time necessary for consideration and entry of the present Response.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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